



Launching the Writer's Workshop

Grades 3-12

Virtual Workshop • July 14, 2020

A FRAMEWORK OF LESSONS TO HELP LAUNCH YOUR WRITING YEAR

Virtual Workshop Overview

Many teachers have confessed that they struggle to get their writer's workshop off the ground. *What should I do the first weeks of school? What are key lessons to jump-start my writing curriculum? How fast or slow should I move?* Regardless of the writing model you're currently using, this virtual workshop provides teachers in grades 3-12 with a powerful framework of lessons that can help launch their writing year. Throughout the workshop, teachers will have the opportunity to plot and plan their own instructional calendar for teaching writing during the first six weeks of school. At the end of the virtual workshop, teachers will be ready to launch their writer's workshop with their personalized blueprints in hand!

Workshop Topics:

- Understand the four phases of the workshop launch.
- Learn classroom-tested routines and procedures to establish the writing environment.
- Set the tone that writing occurs daily.
- Receive organizational ideas for writers' notebooks.
- Learn day-by-day strategies to introduce the 6 Traits of Writing so teachers and students are using a common language.
- Balance free-choice writing topics with teacher-assigned topics.
- Receive ready-to-go lessons with supporting resources, activity pages, and authentic student writing samples.



"I finally feel like I have a handle on how to approach writing. As a middle school history teacher who has to also do a period of writing, this has been invaluable. Loved it!"

Huston Mathias, teacher at Ingersoll Middle School, Canton, IL

The book is included!

We will mail a FREE copy of *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades 3-12* to all registrants within the United States. (International customers will receive a complimentary copy of the digital Launch book.) This popular resource



Grades 3-12
by Kristina Smekens
& Dr. Maureen Scane

is loaded with lesson plans, anchor papers, and classroom photos and includes online access to downloadable forms and handouts. (A \$27.99 value!)

10 a.m. EDT - Workshop Begins
5 p.m. EDT - Workshop Concludes
The day will include a one-hour lunch break.

WORKSHOP OUTLINE

Phase #1: Writing Topics

- Write for different purposes; write about what you know; & generate ABC chart topics

Phase #2: Setting Expectations

- Meet for daily instruction; describe the writing time; outline sharing time/author's chair; support writers when they need help; & hold writer conferences

Phase #2: Creating Notebooks

- Introduce the writer's notebook

Phase #2: Motivating Writers

- Establish a *Done List*

Phase #2: Developing Spelling

- Develop independent spellers & provide topic-driven word charts

Phase #3: Introducing the Six Traits

- Define each trait visually & verbally; reveal mentor text examples; & sing trait-based songs

Phase #4: Building Rubrics

- Define "rubric" & establish an initial writing rubric

Total time to complete:

5 hours (Recorded video available to participants for 30 days.)

Instructor • Kristina Smekens
President & Lead Consultant
for Smekens Education Solutions, Inc.

Who benefits?

- Grades 3-12 Teachers
- Literacy Coaches
- Literacy Coordinators
- Title I Teachers / Directors
- ELL Teachers
- High-Ability Teachers
- Administrators

When you complete the virtual workshop, you'll be able to

- ✓ Kick off the school year with a 20-day "game plan" for teaching writing.
- ✓ Establish routines to effectively manage a writer's workshop.
- ✓ Address common writer dependencies with procedural mini-lessons.
- ✓ Implement a writer's notebook in the classroom.
- ✓ Lead efficient and effective writing conferences with students.
- ✓ Develop a classroom writing rubric that students can use and understand.
- ✓ Transition from procedural lessons into the first writing unit.

Top questions teachers ask about launching writing

- ▶ Which workshop procedures are essential for effective classroom management?
- ▶ What physical spaces and places should I have within my classroom environment?
- ▶ How do I motivate my writers to use class time productively?
- ▶ How do I help my students develop more interesting writing topics?
- ▶ How can I motivate students to go beyond "fixing their mistakes" during revision?
- ▶ What are some proven methods for introducing students to the 6 Traits of Writing?
- ▶ How do I effectively organize my students' writings in notebooks, binders, or folders?

Kristina Smekens provides the answers to these questions and many more!

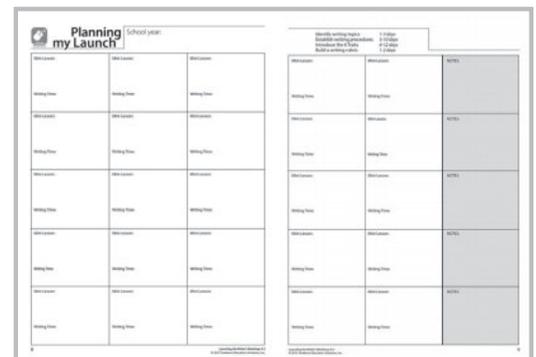
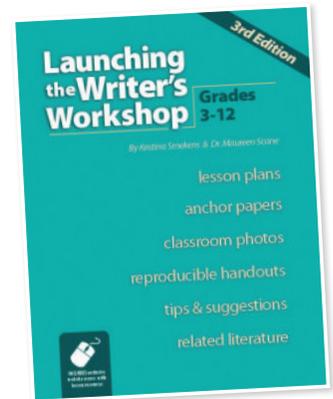
FREE BOOK

Your handbook for teaching writing

The first seven sections of this resource will help you start (launch) your writer's workshop. They include procedural lessons and strategies essential for establishing classroom management and building writer independence. Depending on your grade level, this "launch" lasts three to six weeks.

Once you've launched your writing instruction, use sections 8-13 to help you plan the rest of your year. There are more than 50 detailed writing lessons organized by the 6 Traits of Writing. However, these lessons are not to be taught in the sequence they are presented. Rather, spiral through them based on writer needs and the unit focus. Each section identifies the lessons appropriate for the three modes of writing: persuasive/argumentative, informative, narrative. Grade-level specific priority lessons are suggested per unit of study on pages 5-7.

A planning calendar (pp. 8-9) will help you plot and plan which lessons you'll utilize to launch and sustain your writer's workshop. (A PDF and editable Word version of this planning calendar are available via the online resource.)



Continuing Education Credit

With prior approval from the attendee's school district, participants may receive credit for 5 hours of professional development. After the workshop, attendees receive a Certificate of Completion, which can be used to verify participation. More information about how this workshop fulfills your state's unique continuing education requirements can be found on our website at www.SmekensEducation.com/credit.html.

Graduate-Level Units

Workshop attendees are eligible to pursue 1, 2, or 3 nationally-accredited graduate-level semester credits/units for a full-day session. Through a partnership with University of the Pacific, the cost is \$62 per graduate-level credit. After the workshop, attendees have 6 months to complete the required coursework. The cost of graduate credit is separate from the cost of workshop registration.

Register online

www.SmekensEducation.com
Workshop Date: July 14, 2020
Cost: \$149 per person

Secret Site Resources

Registrants receive lifetime access to a password-protected web page that contains a treasure trove of lessons, videos, and other resources for implementation.



ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Kristina Smekens

Kristina Smekens is a full-time literacy consultant who has built a reputation for using enthusiasm, humor, and common sense to equip K-12 educators with practical, demystifying strategies for teaching reading and writing.

As president and lead consultant for Smekens Education, Kristina is constantly developing new strategies for helping teachers to meet the demands of today's College and Career-Ready Standards. She and her associates share those strategies with teachers across the United States and beyond through on-site professional development, regional seminars, and an always-growing pool of print, digital, and video resources.

A PRESENTER

Kristina has a gift for making the complex seem simple—for showing teachers how to meet the needs of readers and writers by bridging the gap between education research and practical, classroom-tested strategies that work. When she presents at state and national conferences, teachers flock to her sessions because they know Kristina will share strategies they can use in their own classrooms the very next day.

But beyond providing teachers with practical classroom techniques, Kristina is also a master at giving educators the motivation and encouragement they need to return to their classrooms with confidence and excitement to execute change. To stay connected, Kristina sends out a weekly newsletter, "Big Ideas." Thousands of teachers watch their email each Tuesday for it to arrive.

AN AUTHOR

Well known for offering innovative ideas, Kristina has created more than 50 "Smekens Originals," a compilation of books, guides, and classroom tools designed to help teachers implement best-practice literacy strategies. Among the most popular of these resources are her best-selling books, *Launching the Writer's Workshop: Grades K-2* and *Grades 3-12*. Other popular publications include *The Trait Mate*:



6-Traits Starter Lessons, Connecting Comprehension & Composition, Sing & Comprehend, Close Reading Questions for Literature, Close Reading Questions for Informational Text, Trait Trackers, and Serving Up Synthesis. Additionally, Kristina is the author of *Trait-Based Writing: Lessons and Activities* (Scholastic, 2009).

A CRAFTER

Beyond books and physical teacher tools, Kristina has also created a library of on-demand professional learning videos that are utilized by teachers around the world. With topics ranging from "Building Kid-Friendly Writing Rubrics" to "Achieving a Close Reading," each of Kristina's "webPD" videos uses a seminar-style format to capture her energy and enthusiasm while conveying her teacher-friendly ideas.

BACKGROUND

Kristina earned her BA in English and education at Michigan State University. Prior to her full-time consulting career, she was an accomplished high school English and journalism teacher in Michigan and Indiana. A leader in state and national scholastic journalism endeavors, Kristina authored a journalism textbook and teachers' guide for Walsworth Publishing in 2002.

Over the years, she has been blessed to work and learn with hundreds of schools and thousands of teachers throughout the Midwest. She was awarded the Excellence in Reading Award by the Indiana State Reading Association in 2013 for her contributions to literacy in Indiana.

Kristina lives in Warren, Indiana with her husband and business partner Brady and their three children.

"Kristina just takes the guess work out of everything to make it ALL make sense!"

Nicki King, teacher, Union Furnace Elementary, Logan, OH

"Oh. My. Goodness. Kristina is an amazing and entertaining presenter! Her energy is SO motivating and inspirational! Loved it ALL!"

Staci Rooze, teacher at Wea Ridge Middle School, Lafayette, IN

"Kristina was fantastic! I learned new and exciting strategies to improve student writing."

Jenae McKnight, instructional coach, Lake Ridge New Tech Schools, Gary, IN

"I feel more prepared to dig deeper into skills that will help my students perform better on state testing. These skills will also help my students become better reading and writers."

Megan Joseph, teacher at Warren Middle School, Vincent, OH

"Kristina covered every topic I needed to bring back with me. I will be sharing several takeaways with not only the reading teachers—but the science and social studies teachers. She spoke to all levels of learning. Her knowledge of the material and the standards was spot on."

Julie Wandrie, teacher at Saint Paul Lutheran School, Westlake, OH

"After 33 years of teaching, I still am drawn back into Kristina's workshops because they are research-based, standards-focused, and very interactive."

Katie Cadle, teacher, Paoli Community Schools, Paoli, IN